

The Chicago Eagle

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HENRY F. DONOVAN.

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LARGEST

WEEKLY CIRCULATION

IN CHICAGO.

Father Thomas E. Cox, to a scrutiny of the police courts and the criminal courts. The chairman of the subcommittee on pardons, paroles and the suspension of sentences is the Rev. R. A. White and his helpers will be Henry H. Kennedy, Miss Jane Addams, A. N. Eastman and Dr. C. E. Bentley. Chairman H. H. Gross, of the subcommittee on press, has as aids John Hartog and Malcolm McDowell. Messrs. Gross, Hartog and McDowell will make weekly reports to the newspapers showing progress of the work.

The executive committee is the most important of the minor bodies. It will be composed of Chairman Murry Nelson, the heads of the subcommittees, W. P. Rend, the Rev. R. A. White, H. H. Gross, J. H. Eckels and N. A. Partridge, and the secretary, Henry H. Kennedy.

If there were needed an object lesson as to the utter worthlessness of the present city administration, the formation of this organization would surely supply it. Here we have a number of the leading citizens of Chicago called away from their business to attend to that for which an army of paper-pushers is maintained in this city.

These citizens are heavily taxed for the maintenance of a city administration, part of whose duty it is to police the city, but which like every other duty with which it is charged is either neglected or worse.

We repeat there never was such an abject confession of supineness and incompetency as is virtually made by Chicago's miserable city administration through this incident alone.

As for the committee itself, we say, as we said at the outset, that the splendid character of its make-up, composed as it is of men who are respected and looked up to in all walks of life, there is no doubt that it will perform the task it has set itself, well and thoroughly, and in such manner as to be a lasting benefit to the community.

THE CHECK OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

For effrontery and straight-out double-distilled gall, the action of the Mayor and the City Council in undertaking an "investigation" of the Iroquois theater disaster is the limit.

It is the concentrated essence of sublimated cheek.

Just think of it! The whole world holds the city administration responsible for this frightful holocaust. From the pulpit the city officials have been denounced and their non-enforcement of the laws exposed as being absolutely responsible for it.

The exposures through the press day after day have confirmed it; everybody in Chicago who thinks at all is convinced of it.

Yet we have the extraordinary spectacle of this city administration and these city officials, starting, forthwith, an "investigation" of the Iroquois fire horror.

Was there ever anything more absolutely ridiculous and brazenly impudent?

The Chicago city officials investigating themselves is a spectacle for gods and men!

If it were not that we in Chicago had been treated to something similar but on a smaller scale in the past we would stand astounded.

It is not the first time the present city administration has started a farcical investigation of itself, as witness, for instance, the so-called graft inquiry.

But this is too serious a matter to be trifled with. A "you scratch me and I'll scratch you" policy between the Mayor and the City Council will not go. The people will not stand such humbuggery in this matter.

The Iroquois theater disaster must be investigated, and that, too, in a manner that will bring out all the facts, and the guilty parties to justice. This can never be expected from a Council that constantly violates its own ordinances, and a committee chosen from such a Council by a Mayor who never enforces any ordinance, and all of whom are held jointly and separately responsible for that blame which they pretend to be desirous of looting.

COUNTY DEMOCRACY INSTALLS ITS OFFICERS.

Last Sunday the Cook County Democracy installed its officers, the ceremony being performed amid familiar surroundings at the old headquarters on Randolph street. The installation was a fitting culmination of a prolonged contest in which superior strategy and tactical ability completely overwhelmed petty intrigue and open treachery.

The newly elected and popular president, Andrew J. Toolen, and the secretary who needs no adjectives to qualify him, Robert E. Burke, were inducted into office amid tremendous cheering from the six hundred members present. Ninety-eight applications for membership were received and the famous organization enters upon the new year with brighter prospects than ever. Urged of false friends, trimmers, double dealers and sycophants, it will contain in its ranks in future none but sturdy Democrats who will stand for friends, for principle and for party.

The organization as it now stands is numerically strong enough to make it one of the most powerful and influential of its kind in the country. But this will not operate to produce any apathy on the part of its members. Already the leaders are hard at work getting in new blood and that of the right kind.

President Toolen has been authorized to appoint a committee of 100, ten from each Congressional district, in Cook county, whose business shall be to build up and still further strengthen the organization. The committee will not be appointed for a few days, its composition being a matter of such importance that President Toolen has not felt justified in acting hastily. A committee consisting of Robert E. Burke, John H. Colvin and Edward Morgan have been appointed to make arrangements for the annual picnic, the date of which is yet to be fixed. The annual ball will be held at North

Side Turner Hall on February 5, and a committee will be selected later to make arrangements for that event. The club will also make its usual trip to the next New Orleans Mardi Gras, and in fact all of the old time excursions and celebrations of the famous organization will be held with greater éclat than ever. The County Democracy, strengthened and full of life and vigor under the guidance of able and experienced men and with the old reliable band at the helm is sure to be heard from in next year's big campaign.

JOLIET JACKSON DAY BANQUET.

One of the pleasantest political affairs of the season was the Joliet Jackson day banquet. It was attended by the flower of the Democracy of Illinois, and its effect is bound to be felt during the coming campaign in the State. Addresses were delivered by men of note, and of course one of the most prominent figures on the occasion was Mayor Crollus, the gallant young chief executive of Joliet.

Inasmuch as Mayor Crollus is likely to be very much in the public eye during this year's campaign in Illinois, his utterances, as well as those of others of the speakers present, will have their effect throughout the State.

That Mayor Crollus has already made his mark in the Democratic party of Illinois goes without saying, and that he is destined for a higher place in its councils is believed by all who have watched his career.

EAGLETS.

If Harrison had any feeling in him he would resign.

Herrmann and Minwegen, the two Harrison end men, will now take their "graft investigation" again.

The Eagle has been asking for an investigation of the water office for months. Another of Harrison's pets has just jumped town. This time the superintendent of the water shut off bureau has gone with \$2,350.

The Harrison adulterers in the county jail, who are accused of killing policemen, car-barn employees and others, must have easier consciences than their officials on the outside.

As The Eagle remarked a few weeks back in its front page headline: "Harrison and Blood." They are one and inseparable.

Alderman Mayor is chairman of the Finance Committee. What building inspector would dare to interfere with a theater erected by him?

The responsibility of the mayor cannot be dodged.

Coroner Traeger appears to be consulting Mayor Harrison on every point just now. Mr. Traeger seems to be the only man in Chicago who forgets that Mr. Harrison is under charges.

It is the opinion of many people that anyone who lost a relative in the Iroquois Theater fire, should sue the city for damages. A city which will elect and re-elect such a non-law-enforcing mayor as Harrison, must and should pay the penalty.

By the way, Mayor Harrison's return from Oklahoma in eight hours, establishes a record. It takes ten hours to make St. Louis alone by the fast express, for ordinary people.

That the city ordinances were violated in the construction of the Iroquois Theater is true. That the system of inspection by the Harrison administration was careless or worse and that the horror was directly traceable to the failure to comply with the law becomes plain when the ordinances are read.

The theater did not have iron and steel in its fly lofts and galleries; it had no fire pipe over the stage; it used asbestos paint preparation on wood where the law prescribes iron or steel; it did not put in automatic sprinkling devices.

In an affidavit on file in the building department, Thomas J. Noonan, business manager for the theater, swears that the seating capacity was 1,922.

In the City Collector's office, where the license was issued, a representative of the theater averred that the capacity was 1,744.

When fire swept the playhouse, by box office count there were nearly 1,900 persons in the place, and evidence tends to show that over 2,000 were viewing the performance.

The Chicago water meter law is only intended to benefit grafters having an interest in a particular brand of water meters.

The complete contempt felt by Harrison for the building laws, is shown by the manner in which he has ignored the law creating the Building Department itself.

The law strictly provides that "the Commissioner of Buildings must be an experienced architect or builder." In defiance of this law, he appointed politicians to this office, who were neither architects or builders.

For six years of his term, the position of Commissioner of Buildings has been held by chronic office holders, who knew as much about buildings or architecture as a hog knows about scripture.

After two score of persons had been burned in hotel and hospital fires, the mayor promoted his office holding building commissioner to a better job and gave the place to the present incumbent, a practical builder, who has only held the office a few months.

The Chicago ordinance requiring garbage cans is remodeled by the Harrison administration every few months

in order that some grafting can makers can divide with city hall grafters.

The Chicago fire escape law is only intended to benefit grafters having an interest in fire escape factories.

A Methodist minister in a neighboring State who gets a salary of \$800 a year was presented triplets by his wife and declared himself to be contented and thankful. Talk about a man being dead game!

A new field for the bicycle seems to have opened in South Africa. A correspondent of the London Globe says that the loss of so many horses in the Boer War has made the price of horses high, and that therefore many Boers and no small number of Kaffirs have taken to the bicycle. Among the Kaffirs who ride barefooted the "rat-trap" pedal is not a favorite.

In this glorious and liberty loving land, where the opportunities are unlimited, where education is general and intelligence the rule, why is it that men who are trusted are dishonest? It is a fair question. No one forgets the millions who are toiling honestly, who would wish their hands to wither before they touched a dishonest dollar. But there are so many bandits in high places! St. Louis has been in the hands of bootleggers, Chicago, Philadelphia, Grand Rapids, New York and a dozen more have the same story to tell. Men have held up their right hands and sworn to deal justly in all things. They have taken oaths before the very people they have plundered. They have cast a reflection against official integrity in this country that it will take years to wipe out. And they were trusted! That hurts more than anything else. You expect the thing to be dishonest. The burglar is a criminal, and no one believes that he will be anything else. You bar your doors and guard your vaults. For him you keep the gun and the dog. He is the enemy of society, and plans can be made to defeat his enterprise and punish his wrongdoing. But how can you guard against the man who looks honest, who has been honest, who is selected from among his fellows for honor, who makes every promise that the law and the public could ask to demand, and who steals from his friends—the people—because he has the opportunity? Do you wonder that there are men who insist that "every man has his price"? Do you wonder that the simple integrity that once surrounded men no longer convinces? The robbers in high places have done more than pilfer a few thousands of the public treasures. They have shaken confidence in natural integrity—the honesty that exists for honesty's sake. The remedy? Who shall name it? Punish crooks whenever and wherever possible, but the most will be done with the younger generation. America will have to defeat scandals and bootleggers in the homes. Preach honesty to the boys. Keep at it. Never lose an opportunity to make clear the necessity of moral cleanliness. Make the rising generation hate a thief as they would a poisonous snake. Set an example. Cut deceit out of your own life. Breed a race of men who will be honest because they want to be honest. Can the story of future generations be made cleaner than is the record of to-day in any other way?

In seven-tenths of the three thousand cases of insanity among women which have come under my notice was traced directly to the malign influences of childhood." So says the superintendent of an insane asylum. What this specialist means is that these women were reared under a false system, a system which did not fit them for their proper place in life. Is he right? Study the girls of to-day. Look into the school rooms. You will find pretty faces aglow with intellect, but you will also find stooping shoulders, weak spines, undeveloped forms, sunken chests, blanched faces. Where are the girls who are to be the spartan mothers of the race? And where are the "Tom-Boys"—those blithe and agile creatures with broad, deep chests, sparkling eyes, cheeks ruddy with circuses of red blood, waists that show vigor and strength? Where are those dashing, leaping, climbing, laughing, whistling girls of the olden time, full and running over with vitality? You may find some of them in the country districts and in the athletic town girls. What the girls of to-day need most of all is more exercise and less of sofa, more sunlight and less of piano, more sunlight and fresh air and less chocolate and cosmetics. Ask the doctors. For goodness sake, don't restrain that romping, lively girl of yours. Be thankful for her superabundant vitality. She will need it all some day. Let her run. Let the winds make streamers of her flowing hair and the sun tan her cheeks. Let the premises ring with her happy laughter. Let the girl run. It is better than over-stuffed head, over-wrought nerves, over-polished manners. It is better than a weak back and a hee-thee-check—better than doctor's bills. And some day she will marry. What! Her children will rise up and call her blessed. The world will be better off—infinitely better off—than if you had repressed her girlhood, cooped her in the house and treated her like a hot house bloom. Let that girl of yours run.

Dr. John Dill Robinson, of Chicago, says that bathing is a bad habit. It washes the natural oils out of the skin. He says he hasn't taken a bath for two years. This is an unpleasant subject, but while we are on it let us recall the story told by a traveler regarding the personal habits of the Patagonians. These South Americans did not bathe either, but after a few years an outside rim of fat, glistening would peel off and leave the skin as pink and healthy as that of a baby's. Possible Dr. Robinson's position is worth considering. No boy bathes naturally. He has to be forced to it, thus showing that it is an acquired habit.

HARRISON TO BLAME.

(Continued from First Page.)

railings and supports and stanchions thereon, as also all sheaves and pulleys, shall be of iron or steel. All woodwork, including the under side of floor boards, and also all scenery used on or about the stage, shall be coated with a fireproof paint, which shall be submitted and approved by the Commissioner of Buildings.

The Iroquois used iron framing. It admits violating the law in regard to wood used in the lofts and to using wooden instead of iron railings, pulleys and other machinery. The law was violated, but, to guard against fire, the management declares that it substituted wood which had been soaked in an asbestos preparation.

This burned like a flash after being kiln-dried in a temperature of 110 for a short time. It was the rapid combustion of this material and the scenery of the "Mr. Bluebeard" Company, which, it is charged, was not coated with fireproof paint and was never inspected thoroughly, that sounded like an explosion.

"Had the proscenium wall been of iron lath instead of brick," says a prominent city official, "nearly everybody in the orchestra pit would have been killed. The force of the combustion would have blown one of those patent walls permitted by the amended ordinance clear out the front of the building."

Section 184—Fire Pipe Over Stage.—There shall be over the stage of every building of class V, a fire pipe of sheet metal construction extending not less than fifteen feet above the highest part of the roof over the stage of such building—fire pipe shall have an area of at least one-thirtieth of the total area of the stage. The dampers for the fire pipe shall be made of metal and opened by a close-circuit battery, a switch to be placed in the ticket office and one placed near the electrician's station on the stage, each to have a sign with these words printed on it: "Move switch to left in case of fire to get smoke out of building."

DID NOT HAVE FLUE.

The Iroquois Theater had no such flue. Only one theater, Powers, has one. Instead the Iroquois had a big ventilator near the back of the house which served to make a draft when the stage doors were opened, and helped draw the flames and smoke through the house. This draft, according to one story, caused the asbestos curtain to "buckle" and stick.

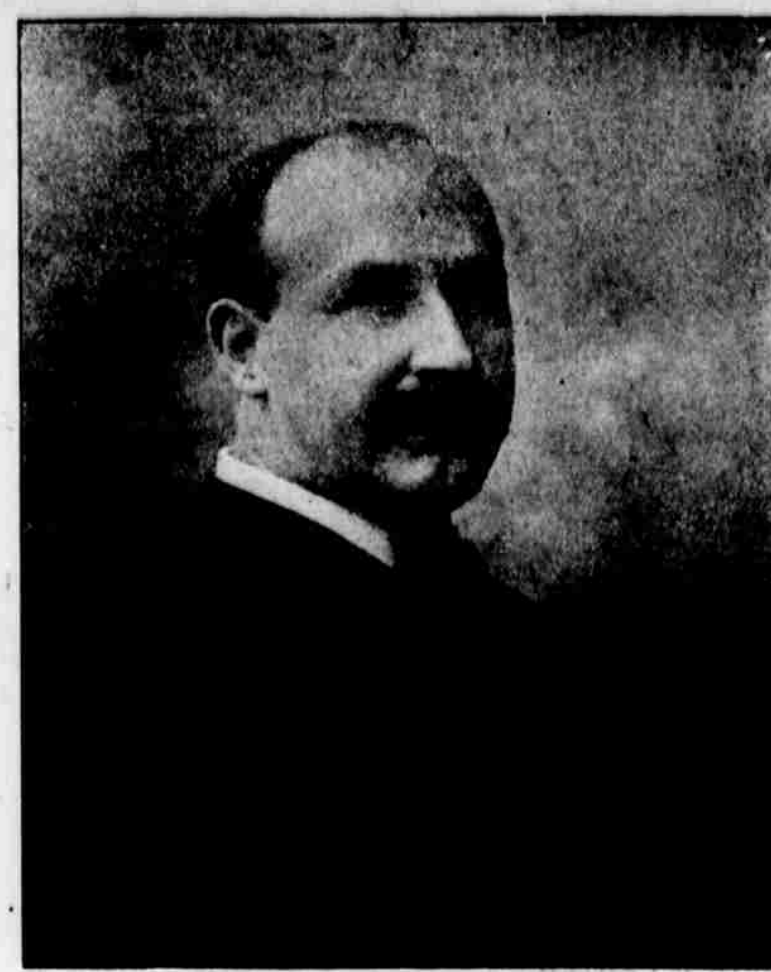
Section 185—Automatic Sprinkler.—In every building of Class V, a system of automatic sprinklers to be supplied with water from a tank located not less than twenty feet above the highest part of the roof of the building. Sprinklers shall be placed above and below the stage; also in paint room, store room, property room and dressing rooms. Tank not to be connected with standpipe and ladder system, but to have separate pipe for filling from fire pump and a three-inch iron pipe extending from tank to outside of building with Samese connections for Fire Department use.

The Iroquois Theater had no such system. The inspectors did not mention this violation.

Section 190—Employment of Firemen in Class V.—It shall be the duty of the owner, agent, lessee or occupant of any building of Class V, with accommodations for 1,000 or more persons, to employ one or more competent, experienced firemen, approved by the fire marshal, to be on duty at such theater during the whole time it is open to the public; such firemen to report to and be subject to the orders of the fire marshal, and shall be in uniform and shall see that all fire apparatus required is in its proper place and in efficient and ready working order.

Canadian progress has recently begun to keep step with that of the United States, the southern partner in the ownership of a continent. The Dominion has about one-fourteenth the population of this country. About eighty thousand immigrants settled there during the fiscal year recently closed, or one-tenth as many as came to the United States. The smaller number means more to our northern neighbor than the larger one does to the United States, for the immigrants to Canada are occupying practically new country and blazing the way—if one may use the figure of the forest in writing of a treeless region—for the thousands who are to come after them to make the prairies of the north blossom as the plantations of the south. The new population is settling in the wheat-growing and cattle-raising regions, where land is cheap and plentiful enough to supply adjoining farms for the sons of the largest family in Europe or America. Between five and ten million acres of land have been sold by private companies within the past three years, and many hundred thousand acres more have been disposed of by the government under the homestead laws. The effect of the influx of population is shown in the crop reports. The farmers of Manitoba produced more than fifty million bushels of wheat in 1901, whereas the yield of the province ten years before was only twenty-three million bushels. The increase in the wheat production of the Dominion, from sixty-one million bushels to eighty-five millions, is due to the growth of this province. American farmers need not fear the competition of Canadian wheat. There will be a market for all that can be raised. American producers of all kinds ought rather to feel an interest in the development of the resources of this continent, the Canadian half of it as well as the American.

The Millinery Merchants' Protective Association has agreed with the National Audubon Society to refrain for three years from using the feathers of certain birds for decorating hats and bounties on condition that the Audubon Society will try to prevent game warden from interfering illegally with the milliners, and will also refrain from using the passage of laws against the use of the feathers of domesticated fowls. Among the birds



HON. JOHN C. FETZER,

The Efficient Member of the School Board, Who Wants the Children Better Protected from Fire.

protected by this agreement are American pelicans, egrets and other species of heron, the killing of which in the mating season has been common. Now if the women will refrain from asking for the feathers of the birds in question, it ought to be easy for the milliners to live up to their part of the agreement.

"Political economy," said the precocious son of the ward boss, "is getting men to vote for you as cheap as you

tionary, but it is as correctly derived as "telegram" or "telephone." Is not slang, and saves several words, thus hastening the happy day when we shall all talk shorthand.

About 50,000 recent immigrants have returned to Europe this fall. Many thousands of homeseekers have gone from the United States to Manitoba and adjacent districts of British America within the last few months. These facts make an important offset



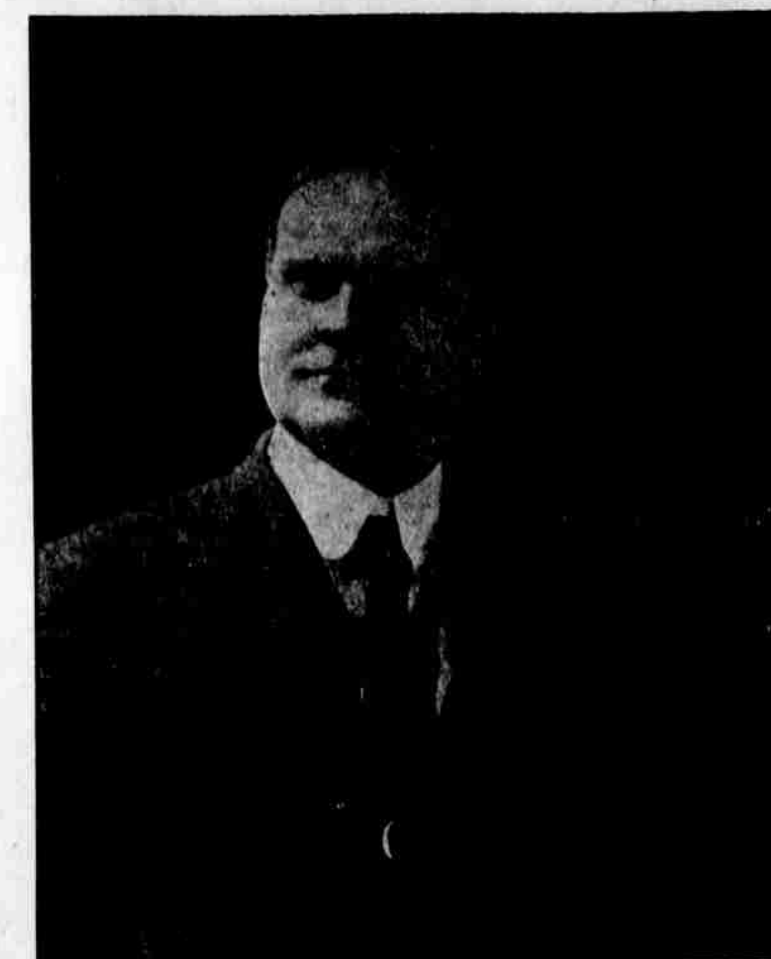
MR. BENJAMIN J. GLASER,

The Popular Banker, Real Estate and Insurance Man, Talked of for Alderman of the Thirty-fourth Ward.

can." Something could doubtless be added to this definition by those able exponents of the science who are preparing to take postgraduate courses in various State penitentiaries this winter.

For the benefit of a clerk who complained that he had to write over and over again, "referring to our conversation over the telephone," an English journal suggests that he say "telephone," which means "a word from a distance." It is not yet in the dic-

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MR. F. M. MCARTAN,

The Well-Known Business Man, Talked of for Alderman of the Twenty-first Ward.